



THE WEATHER OF 1947

The outstanding feature of the weather once again was the general lack of rain, constituting hazardous drought conditions over the whole Island. From March till August in all parishes the rainfall was well below normal, apart from St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland where during May the rainfall exceeded the average. It is worthy of note that during May only about 50% of the average rainfall was recorded for the greater part of the Island. With the onset of the September rains the drought situation was somewhat alleviated when the rainfall over the Island averaged over 3 inches above the normal, but the following two months were exceedingly dry with deficiencies up to 8 inches occurring in Westmoreland, St. Andrew and St. Thomas during October.

In September Portland, normally the wettest parish of the Island, recorded only 50% of the usual rainfall, and the only parish with less rain was St. Ann.

Comparative figures of the 1947 rainfall for the main stations are given below:—

Kingston	25.81	Average	30.56	Excess	17%
Negril	45.25	Average	54.00	Deficit	18%
Morant	37.04	Average	67.00	Deficit	44%

The Kingston figures which departed considerably from the general trend of the 1947 rainfall, clearly illustrate the very local nature of rainfall in these latitudes. The rather high total for this station (Public Works Office) is due to heavy showers on the 14th and 15th September when 3.05 inches and 4.65 inches respectively were recorded.

The year was notably warm with all average monthly temperatures above the normal except for April and September which were about normal. June was unusually warm with a maximum of 89.9° F and minimum 76.1° F against the normals 88.5° F and 73.6° F respectively. July temperatures were from 1° to 2° above average, November about 3° above average, whilst in December the morning temperatures were 5° above the normal.

Extremes—During April 27 rainfall stations recorded no measurable rain whilst in the November drought the average rainfall for the Island was 2.17 inches below any previous average.

The Hope Gardens station broke all previous records of Maximum temperature when 97.5° F was reached on 24th June. This new record was however exceeded on July 17th when the even higher temperature of 98.9° F was measured.

On June 28th the Kingston station recorded 96.0° F which was the highest for the City since 1908.

Between February 15th and 17th the cold air of a "Norther" penetrated as far south as the South-eastern Caribbean, a very rare occurrence.

Northers—A wave of cold air from the United States of America was carried across Cuba by north winds in the rear of a depression moving into the Atlantic over Florida. It reached Jamaica on the 15th February affecting the whole Island as a moderate Norther for two days, Negril Point Lighthouse recording winds of 25-30 m.p.h. throughout the first day. No other northers were recorded although in March cold air from the United States of America penetrated to the south of Jamaica, but the winds were only light North to North East.

Tropical Storms—During the year no less than ten Tropical Storms of varying intensity occurred in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico area, but none of these were sufficiently near or well enough developed to justify a hurricane warning for the Island. On the 11th September, however a severe tropical storm was located about 750 miles east of Martinique and subsequently moved in a west north-west direction at 15-20 m.p.h. gradually attaining hurricane intensity. A preliminary hurricane warning was issued to Turks Island on the 12th and as the storm passed to the north of the Island on the night of the 13-14th strong to gale north-west winds were reported. This storm was followed by an area of low pressure which moved across Jamaica on the 19th and developed a feeble circulation to the east of Grand Cayman but did not become well defined until 21st September. It then moved north-westwards and recurved off the western tip of Cuba to give gales later over West Florida.

On the 9th October a tropical storm was indicated in the south-west Caribbean and a preliminary warning was issued to shipping and Belize. Information received during the night at Palisadoes, was rather scanty, but indicated the disturbance was following a more northerly track than was anticipated at first. Therefore, early on the 10th of October the Cayman Islands were warned of the development and the area experienced southerly gales. The storm moved across Cuba about 60 miles west of Havana gained hurricane force over Florida Keys and passed into the Atlantic between Miami and West Palm Beach. On the 15th of the same month indications of a new development were apparent off the Windward Island, and by the 16th the new disturbance was apparent some 200 miles east of Puerto Rico. Turks Island was again warned of the imminent danger of this developing storm but fortunately the centre passed about 100 miles to the north of the Island and only caused winds of gale force. On the 18th however, this storm, with full hurricane intensity, passed closely to the Bahamas and caused extensive damage.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Climate Database Modernization Program

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March 28, 2002

KINGSTON JAMAICA.—Mean Meteorological Results for the Year 1947, Latitude 18° 48' North. Longitude 107° 58' West.

Month	Air Temperatures. (Fah.)										Dew Point		Relative Humidity		Amount of Cloud†			Rainfall Inches		Weather No. of days of				Wind No. of observations of‡																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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*And other days. †Incomplete data. ‡Wind and Cloud observation taken at the Airport.
 Barometer Pressure reduced to the Standards of National Physical Laboratory 32°, Gravity at Latitude 45°, and to mean Sea Level. The 75th Meridian West of Greenwich Standard Time used. Altitude of Standard Barometer above Mean Sea Level 24 ft. Height of Thermometers above ground 4 ft. of Rain-gauge above ground 3 ft. Height of Anemometer above ground 50 ft.

MORANT POINT LIGHT HOUSE, JAMAICA.—Mean Meteorological Results for the year 1947. Latitude 17° 58' North. Longitude 78° 12' West.

[illegible]

***And nither does**

Barometer Pressure reduced to the Standard of National Physical Laboratory 32°. Gravity at Latitude 45° and to Mean Sea Level. The 75th Meridian West of Greenwich Standard Time used. Altitude of Standard Barometer above Mean Sea Level 38 ft. Height of Thermometers above ground 4 ft. 6 inches. Height of Rain-gauge above ground 6 ft. 5 ins. Height of Anemometer above the ground 94 ft. to the 31st May 1935, and 8 ft. above ground from 1st June, 1935.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

NEGRIL POINT LIGHT HOUSE, JAMAICA.—Mean Meteorological Results for the Year 1947. Latitude 18° 15' North. Longitude 78° 23' West.

Month	Air Temperatures (Fah.)										Dew Point			Relative Humidity		Amount of Cloud		Rainfall Inches		Weather				Wind				
	7 a.m. 1 p.m. 7 p.m.			Means of			Absolute Max. and Min.				7 a.m. 1 p.m. 7 p.m.		7 a.m. p.m. 7 p.m. p.m.		Total		Max. Date		Rain	Thunderstorm	Clear Sky	Overcast	Gales	No. of observations of				
				Min.	Max.	Dag	Max.	Dag	N. NE. E. SE S. SW. W. NW	Calm																		
Jan.	75.3	84.2	76.3	65.2	85.9	.66	66	70	70	63	63	81	2.4	4.7	5.1	4.04	0.83	23	13	18	31	13	10	6	5	5	1	3
Feb.	71.9	81.0	76.2	69.4	82.5	.62	66	70	69	82	70	80	5.4	4.5	4.6	3.58	1.05	1	10	17	22	5	21	4	2	1	12	..
Mar.	72.4	83.6	77.6	70.2	85.1	.65	67	70	69	84	64	76	5.2	5.7	7.6	4.55	0.83	12	16	14	13	10	29	9	2	4	3	8
April	71.0	83.7	78.0	70.0	85.9	.66	69	72	71	86	66	80	2.5	6.7	6.7	5.11	1.06	2	13	12	19	13	25	4	3	4	6	4
May	76.9	84.6	77.7	71.4	86.7	.68	71	72	71	82	66	79	4.3	5.8	7.2	5.88	1.21	24	14	6	22	11	29	5	3	3	9	5
June	77.9	85.4	79.9	73.7	86.6	.69	72	74	73	82	68	79	6.4	6.7	7.8	2.44	0.55	25	14	7	13	10	44	1	3	3	4	5
July	77.7	86.1	80.4	72.1	87.5	.70	73	74	74	85	63	81	3.9	6.1	7.6	3.60	1.75	1	14	10	22	10	33	4	5	2	6	1
Aug.	77.2	86.9	80.0	73.6	89.0	.71	73	74	74	85	63	81	3.9	6.1	7.6	3.14	1.17	29	13	11	19	16	27	5	5	3	4	3
Sept.	78.3	86.8	79.4	74.3	89.0	.72	75	75	74	77	67	83	7.1	6.9	7.5	6.97	1.75	20	16	8	23	8	19	12	5	4	6	5
Oct.	76.7	86.6	79.8	76.1	88.1	.71	73	75	75	87	67	84	5.8	5.6	4.1	3.50	1.64	23	12	10	20	11	26	7	2	1	6	1
Nov.	75.3	83.1	80.6	71.4	80.2	.68	71	74	73	87	60	77	5.3	5.2	3.9	0.45	0.13	3	9	7	9	22	15	21	6	3	5	2
Dec.	73.7	85.9	78.2	70.0	87.9	.64	69	71	72	83	62	81	5.9	6.4	5.5	1.96	0.74	1	7	3	28	28	8	12	6	7	5	2
Means Totals	75.3	85.2	78.7	71.5	86.9	.68	70	72	72	83	65	80	5.1	5.9	6.3	45.25		151		1123	250	157	286	90	47	40	67	39

*And other days.
 Barometer Pressure reduced to the Standard of National Physical Laboratory 32°. Gravity at Latitude 45° and to Mean Sea Level. The 75th Meridian West of Greenwich Standard Time used. Altitude of Standard Barometer above Mean Sea Level 22 ft. Height of Thermometers above ground at 4 ft. 6 ins. Height of Rain-gauge above ground 3 ft. Height of Anemometer above ground 18 ft.

STATION NOTES

The climatological readings for Kingston are made from several stations. Temperatures and humidity are measured in a Stevenson Screen situated in Winchester Park and supervised by the Society of Jesuits. The exposure is good and the readings are considered representative of the area. Rainfall is measured at the Public Works Office but there are several other gauges within a two mile radius with which to compare. This is necessary with the capricious nature of Jamaica rain. Cloud weather and wind are recorded at Palisadoes Airport situated on the seaward side of Kingston Bay. This is a full time synoptic and climatological meteorological station, first class, maintained by Air Ministry staff, and is the forecast centre for the western Caribbean. Here the exposure is excellent but the cloud amount tends to be less than over the City. Showers are also less frequent. The day sea breeze sets in earlier at the Airport and apparently is stronger, while the night land breeze which cools the urban area does not appreciably affect the Airport till dawn. Wind is recorded by Dines Pressure Tube Recording Anemometer.

Both Morant Point and Negril Point Light house are full synoptic reporting stations with a good complement of instruments. Exposures are open and very good, the sites at the extreme east and west extremities of the Island being excellent for their main purpose of weather reporting for immediate international use.